



31.3.2017

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 1015/2016 by L. R. D. (British) on animal welfare of companion animals in EU Member States

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner writes in relation to a serious concern about the welfare of companion animals in a number of EU Member States, for example, but not exclusively, the plight of stray dogs in Romania. The petitioner argues that Article 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union sets out the promotion of social justice and protection as well as social territorial cohesion and solidarity between Member States. The petitioner claims there can be no social justice without ensuring that companion animals are well looked after and that animal welfare goes hand-in-hand with social justice, since social justice entails looking after the weakest and most vulnerable members of society.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 10 January 2017. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 31 March 2017

The welfare of companion and stray animals is not governed by EU rules. This matter remains under the sole competence of the Member States.

The Commission is not contemplating further action, with due regard to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, considering that the relevant animal welfare objectives can be better achieved at the level of Member States.

As regards the welfare of pets involved in commercial breeding or trade, the Commission is not planning to propose a legislative initiative.

Conclusion

The Commission can only act within the framework of its competences, and most of the issues raised by the petitioner lie outside this framework.